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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 18-20, 2016

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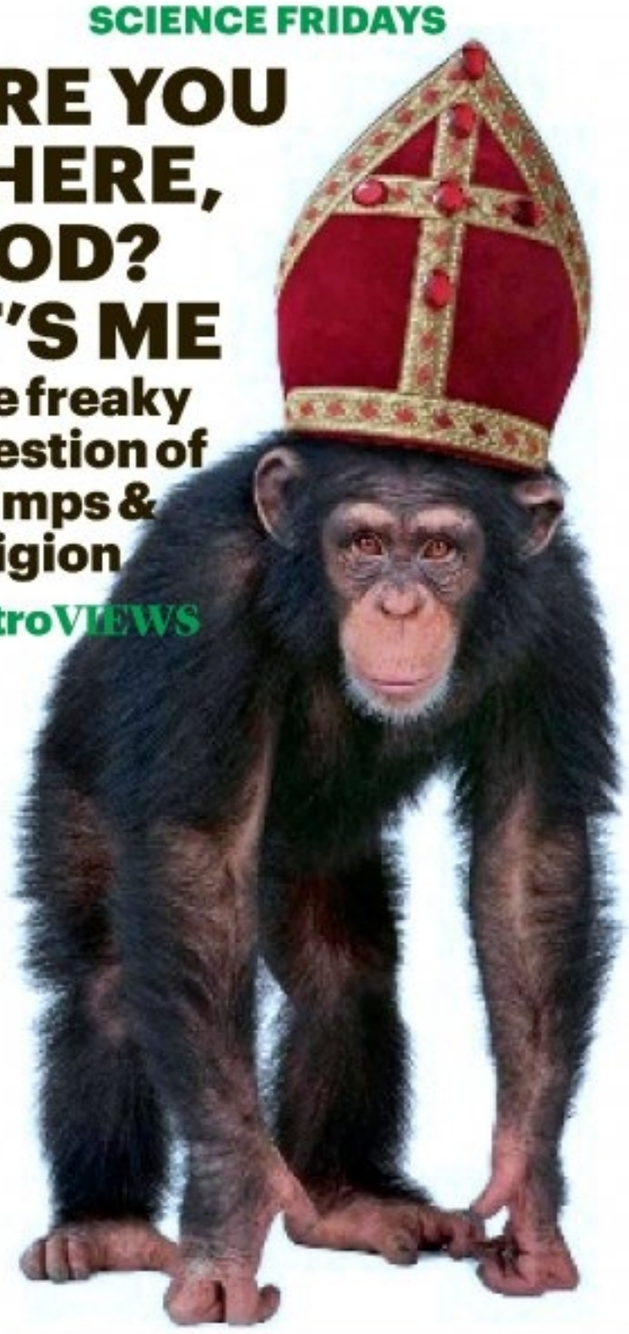

PLUS

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- And combinatorics (we use it in a sentence)

BUDGET LEAK

Game-changer: Big win for cities

Billions pledged for social, green infrastructure and transit

Ottawa appears ready to boost its share of the funding it provides municipalities as it looks to fast-track an infrastructure spending spree, Torstar News Service has learned.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau will take the wraps off the Liberals' first budget on Tuesday.

And sources say municipal officials can expect good news on two fronts: A change to the traditional one-third funding formula — at least for some projects — and financial help for the prep work needed to get those infrastructure projects off the ground.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday previewed the upcoming fiscal blueprint, saying his government has chosen "investment" over "austerity."

Trudeau also confirmed that the Liberals will use the upcoming budget to roll back the age of eligibility for Old Age Security payments to 65 from 67 as promised, reversing a change introduced by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals pledged a big hike in infrastructure funding during last year's election campaign — an extra $60 billion over the coming decade. The budget will detail the government's plan to roll out the cash in two phases.

The initial phase, to be stretched over two years, will allow infrastructure cash to be spent on existing projects. Billed as "recapitalization," it will enable municipalities to tackle a backlog of unfunded work.

Trudeau confirmed Thursday that the government's initial focus will be on funding repairs to existing infrastructure.

"The first two years, we're going to do the unsexy things that governments hate to announce, recapitalization of infrastructure, maintenance, upgrades, the things that you don't get to cut a ribbon and announce a shiny new building on," the prime minister said in an interview with Bloomberg.

That's certain to be good news for Toronto, which has a wish list of work that might qualify, such as upgrades to the signal system on the Bloor-Danforth subway line, and renovation and repairs to the city's stock of social housing.

Typically, the cost of infrastructure has been split equally between municipalities, provinces and the federal government. But municipal leaders have appealed to the federal government to consider paying a greater share — up to 50 per cent — with the provinces paying around 33 per cent and municipalities on the hook for 20 per cent. It appears that appeal has hit home, with one source saying the one-third funding formula is a "thing of the past." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Unsexy' projects welcome in Toronto

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Channeling federal money into repairs and other "unsexy" municipal projects is an important first step in addressing Toronto's "massive" infrastructure backlog, says University of Toronto planning professor Matti Siemiatycki.

He hailed pieces of the upcoming federal budget as a move away from the "ribbon-cutting politics."

"It's not glamorous to redo a sewer main," he said. "But having a government that recognizes that part of investing in infrastructure is investing in maintenance is really important.

"It's a recognition that this is an urban country now and what people in cities need is the infrastructure that will allow their economies to thrive and create jobs but also maintain a strong quality of life."

Ottawa has been willing to cover capital costs for new infrastructure, but, in doing so, has often saddled cities with the burden of maintaining those facilities, Siemiatycki said.

In Toronto, the results of that approach are increasingly visible: the TTC struggles to maintain a state of good repair, 7,500 units of Toronto Community Housing are on the verge of being condemned and chunks of concrete continue to fall from the Gardiner Expressway.

Mayor John Tory called the budget news "encouraging" in a statement Thursday.

"This could be the first federal budget that includes investment in social housing, which is a huge moment for Toronto," said Tory spokeswoman Keerthana Kamalavasan.

More on budget, page 13

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Your essential daily news

Spotlight on Cuba: How Canada made the Cuba-U.S. meeting happen. **World**

Civet GETTY IMMAGES

COFFEE

A hint of chocolate, caramel ... and more

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Saying your coffee tastes like cat pee is an insult. But, saying it tastes like cat poop could be considered a compliment at an upcoming event.

Vancouver's Doi Chaang Coffee company is bringing coffee made from beans that have passed through the digestive system of cat-like mammals, called civets, to the Food and Drink Market, running April 8-10 at Exhibition Place.

Civets eat coffee berries and excrete them without breaking them down. The beans are then pulled from their feces and brewed into what is a "flavourful, complex" cup of Joe, said Brittany Brown, spokeswoman for Doi Chaang.

"It's a smooth cup, comparable to a lighter roast, with notes of chocolate and caramel," she said, adding that the flavour is created by enzymes in the cats' digestive systems.

Brown's company uses beans from wild civets in Doi Chaang Thailand. A 50-gram tin of coffee makes about eight cups and costs $55.

When asked what makes humans so passionate about animals — birds, small mammals or cats — Lorena Rossi's answer is simple: "It's our need to nurture."
MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City cat, country cat

ANIMALS

Program takes feral felines from the alley to the barn

Standing in the back of a building's off-loading station in a Caledon industrial park, Lorena Rossi and Francesca Cicca de Marco blow kisses at two cats sitting warily on the other side of a fence.

Teddy and Cheddar are half of one of the feral cat colonies Rossi takes care of. It's a way of managing the seemingly ever-growing and roaming outdoor cat populations. By setting up feeding stations and small insulated shelters, the pair says, the territorial cats establish a colony.

They don't reproduce, either. Rossi's feral cat colonies in Caledon are part of "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) programs, which the City of Toronto has endorsed. Businesses in the industrial parks call Rossi to have cats that have found shelter in their yards spayed and neutered, making their presence more manageable.

The Toronto Humane Society also supports TNR programs and has its own in the form of its Barn Cat Program, started in 2009. It connects unadoptable cats with farmers who would like barn cats to help manage the rodents on their property.

But releasing cats into the wild is part of a debate fraught with controversy on the roaming cats' effect on wildlife and whether they all really belong outside.

"Birds and small mammals, generally speaking, the world over, are impacted by free roaming cats," says Nathalie Karvonen, executive director of the Toronto Wildlife Centre. Ideally, pet cats should remain indoors, Karvonen explained, because of their propensity to hunt for sport. "It's a really hard, philosophical question to answer," she added, acknowledging the feral cat population is hard to manage because most are difficult to place in homes.

Rossi and Cicca de Marco believe the best way to control feral cat populations is through attrition.

So do the humane society and Toronto Animal Services, which say their shelters are less full since their respective TNR programs.

"We know that keeping feral cats in the shelter for any period of time is really difficult for them. They're more stressed, they're more likely to get sick," said Barbara Steinhoff, executive director of the THS.

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HEALTH

Family by Ford's hospital bed

Rob Ford's family said Thursday they were by his side in hospital "as he continues his battle against cancer."

In a statement issued by Ford's chief of staff Dan Jacobs, they ask "for privacy during this difficult time, and thank the people of Toronto and around the world for their ongoing prayers and support.

"Should there be any developments, a further release will follow."

Ford, 46, the councillor for Ward 2 (Etobicoke North) and the city's former mayor, was forced to drop out of his re-election bid for the mayor's seat in the fall of 2014 after becoming ill. He was diagnosed with pleomorphic liposarcoma, after a tumour was found in his abdomen. He instead ran for his former council seat.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CLINICAL TRIAL

'TumorGraft' treatment

Ford had been taking part in a clinical trial at Mount Sinai called "TumorGraft," which uses mice, implanted with the same tumour, to help identify the best treatment by testing different drugs.

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Judge grants T.O. man right to die

COURT

Ailing senior pleads for new law for others

Lawyer Andrew Faith speaks outside Superior Court in Toronto on Thursday after his elderly client won permission for a doctor-assisted death. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An 81-year-old Toronto man who has become the first person in Ontario to be granted a physician-assisted death is now pleading with the federal government to bring in new legislation soon so that others don't have to go through the same process as he did.

"This decision allows me, with the support of caring doctors, to die with dignity," the man, identified only as A.B., said in a statement read by his lawyer in court on Thursday after a judge granted him a constitutional exemption for an assisted death.

A.B. is suffering intolerable pain from aggressive, advanced stage lymphoma. His lawyer, Andrew Faith, told Superior Court Justice Paul Perell that his condition is only worsening and he is looking to receive a physician-assisted death as early as this weekend.

The man's wife, daughter and physicians submitted affidavits supporting his request.

Perell also granted A.B. a declaration that the coroner need not be notified of his death, saying he agreed with his lawyers' submission that his death would "not be a death from a cause other than by disease."

A.B.'s family was concerned the coroner might consider his death as having stemmed from non-natural causes that could spark an investigation and autopsy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Four issues need attention

There's a lot of confusion and a lot to be decided about physician-assisted death in Canada. Metro spoke with Kerry Bowman, a bioethicist and professor at the University of Toronto who's been involved with this issue, to get some answers.

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Where are we today?

Physician-assisted death is legal in Canada, but people who are seeking a doctor's help with dying must get approval from a provincial court.

A judge will determine if each case fits within the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling that physician-assisted death should be granted when a patient is suffering from a "grievous and irremediable" medical condition.

What's coming?

As of June 6, there will likely be new federal legislation that aligns with the Supreme Court's decision.

The legislation means people won't need to go to court anymore for permission.

The legislation is expected to follow a parliamentary committee recommendation that a person be granted physician-assisted death when it's approved by two doctors, one of whom is likely their family doctor.

What's left to figure out?

There are four contentious issues the legislation is likely to deal with, but it's not known exactly how they'll be handled.

Youth

The Supreme Court decision makes it clear patients must clearly demonstrate they understand and appreciate physician-assisted dying — and that's more complicated if the patient is a child.

"There are two possibilities. One is the person would have to be over the age of 18. The other is to look at this young person and assess whether this person understands and appreciates the implications of physician-assisted dying and take it from there," Bowman said.

He added the ethical problem with drawing a line at 18 is young people have the same constitutional rights as adults.

Mental health

The parliamentary committee has recommended that mental health conditions are considered illnesses for which patients can seek physician-assisted death.

It's likely that someone who suffers from an incurable mental illness that causes them unbearable suffering, and who is capable of making the decision to die when they are not in an acute state of that mental illness, would be given permission for physician-assisted death, Bowman said.

Non-terminal illness

Many people have concerns that the Supreme Court's ruling is too broad because the language incorporates people who don't necessarily have a fatal disease, Bowman said.

"The words that we have been given by the Supreme Court of Canada are 'grievous and irremediable,'" he said. "You have to have a serious illness with unbearable suffering, but it has to be irremediable, meaning it can't be fixed."

Conscientious objection

Doctors and nurses who have moral objections to physician-assisted death won't be forced to grant them, but it's expected they'll refer a patient to someone who will, Bowman said.

It's not clear yet if entire institutions — such as hospitals with religious ties — can opt to be exempt altogether.

Slashed prices wins travellers

UNION-PEARSON EXPRESS

Embattled train service finally filling up its cars

Half the price has bought the Union Pearson Express train twice the riders, according to Metrolinx.

A week after the provincial agency cut fares by more than half, early estimates show that ridership is holding steady at about 5,000 a day.

Before the price drop, the UPX was drawing only 2,000 to 2,200 riders a day.

Last Wednesday, the first day of the new prices, 83 per cent of UPX riders were air travellers. The other 17 per cent were commuters, said Metrolinx spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins.

Staff counted about 5,300 boardings that day and that's held steady since, she said. Forty per cent of Wednesday's riders were first-time UPX users.

$12

The cash price of a UPX ticket, down from $27.50. The new price with a Presto card is $9, down from $19.

"Thursday and Friday were a lot of March Break travellers so ridership was even higher than the first day," she said.

A more precise count of revenue ridership takes about six weeks, she said.

Metrolinx approved the lower fares last month after Premier Kathleen Wynne said the number of empty trains — the UPX runs every 15 minutes in both directions between Union Station and Pearson — was unacceptable.

Tickets were slashed to $9 for Presto card holders from $19 and, $12, down from $27.50 for those paying cash. Discounted fares and airport employee pass prices were also reduced.

"It's really quite heartening to watch the trains leave full and we often send out completely full trains, so staff are very pleased," said Aikins, who works at the Metrolinx head office at Union Station.

Some critics say the prices are still too high. Former Weston NDP MP Mike Sullivan says the publicly funded train that was built for $456 million and priced for business travellers, should cost the same as a TTC fare.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cultural events, like this traditional dance workshop, are part of the SOAR program. CONTRIBUTED

SOAR

First Nations youth explore university

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A group of First Nations youth are getting a glimpse into what life is like at one of Canada's largest universities.

At least 20 high school kids from aboriginal communities across Ontario are spending their spring break at the University of Toronto's downtown campus.

It's part of SOAR, a University of Toronto program that encourages aboriginal youth to pursue post-secondary education.

For some, the trip could be a game-changer, said Laurel Franks.

Franks grew up in a Mohawk community in Northern Ontario and is now pursuing a master's degree in social work at U of T. Many aboriginal kids have a "fear of going to university," she said.

"They think it's a scary environment," Franks said, noting there's a sense of a "reverse stigma" in some aboriginal circles, where post-secondary education is portrayed as a "white thing."

SOAR gives youth a chance to explore the potential for further education, showing them the university environment is safe and appropriate for everyone, she said.

It's also a chance for them to develop new friendships, something Franks said can be difficult in remote communities.

"If you are by yourself all the time, like I was, going to university sounds very discouraging," she said.

Laurel Franks, a U of T student who helped with this year's recruitment of SOAR participants. CONTRIBUTED

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Artist imitates life in Swansea

WEST TORONTO

Painting series uses public space as subject — and gallery

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

You may see a road sign and a garbage can on your local street corner. But Jorge Molina sees art.

That's what prompted him to launch a guerilla public-art campaign, creating original paintings of things he sees at Toronto intersections and hanging the works on hydro poles at the places they depict.

"We see this crap every day and it becomes mundane," Molina told Metro. "But I see art in that stuff, and I want people to see what I see."

The paintings — ranging from wildlife to newspaper boxes — started popping up three weeks ago in the Swansea neighbourhood. At first, Molina was working anonymously but went public in the Bloor West Villager this week.

Now, he's planning to expand the campaign and hang 416 small canvasses in 35 neighbourhoods across The Six.

He's not really sure if the plan's legal, but said the art is an improvement over the baby-sitting and weight-loss program ads he sees stapled to utility poles every day. His hope is that he can hang all 416 over the next several weeks.

When the project is done, anyone is welcome to take a painting for themselves, Molina said.

> I see art in that stuff, and I want people to see what I see.
> Jorge Molina

At least one person has already jumped the gun. Molina discovered Wednesday afternoon that a painting from his neighbourhood has already been snagged.

"It's cool, that's what I wanted," he said. "I just wasn't ready for them to take it just yet."

Jorge Molina has plans to take his art project far beyond the corners of his beloved Swansea neighbourhood. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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TECHNOLOGY

U of T students reach for the sky with aerospace inventions

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

An autonomous, multi-purpose drone. An astrobiology research satellite. A high-altitude rocket.

Those are just some of the inventions students at the University of Toronto are presenting to the public Friday ahead of an international aerospace competition this summer.

One group has built a flying drone — complete with built-in cameras and a self-guidance system — that could help fight forest fires or deliver medical supplies to remote areas.

"It's really satisfying to think of helping solve real world problems by using this technology," said team leader and University of Toronto Aerospace Team president Jeremy Chan-Hao Wang.

"There's been a lot of trying and failing but we're happy for the progress."

The experience has shown Wang and his colleagues that you don't need NASA's budget to experiment with space. Excluding labour and launching prices, the making of the satellite is expected to cost just $50,000. Each of the three drones costs about $5,000, while the rocket is about $9,000.

Third-year mechanical engineering student Katie Gwozdecky said working on the project has been an eye-opening learning experience.

"Everything we learned through this, you'd need many years in class to cover it," she said. "This is what I'll remember in 20 years when I'm no longer here."

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International competition takes place in June in Webster Field, Maryland. Over 40 teams will compete for the $50,000 in cash prize.

Jeremy Chan-Hao Wang and Katie Gwozdecky proudly clutch a student-made rocket engine and pressure vessel in their university lab. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

NEW AT HUDSON'S BAY

THE LATEST LAUNCHES, NEW ARRIVALS AND WHAT TO SHOP FOR SPRING

TEEEZ COSMETICS

With a focus on crafting seasonal looks that reflect the fashion moment, expect vivid colour and packaging that pushes the envelope from Dutch beauty brand, Teeez Cosmetics *($21 to $24). Shop select stores and the bay.com*

Exclusively ours

KARL LAGERFELD PARIS

With a career spanning 60 years, Lagerfeld combines his style wisdom with a Parisian sense of whimsy for this collection of feminine fashion, shoes and accessories *(top, $99; pant, $109). Also available at thebay.com*

NESPRESSO PRODIGIO

If your first urge upon waking is to reach for your smartphone, the Prodigio will perk you up. The first espresso machine to use Bluetooth connectivity, the Prodigio *($319.95)* brews espresso remotely on command, in addition to an app's-worth of other futuristic features.

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CALVIN KLEIN FURNITURE

Calvin Klein brings the designer's signature refined, modern esthetic home in timeless and refined fabrics, textures and colours — as in the Carlisle Wooden Accent Chair *(pictured, $2,300)* and Cove Round Brass End Table *(pictured, $2,000)*. The collection includes contemporary pieces for the bedroom, living and dining room, and other spaces. *Available at Hudson's Bay Toronto Queen Street and thebay.com*

NEW IN MEN'S ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR

New to our men's shoe department are sporty kicks by Under Armour *(pictured, $120)*, Reebok and Puma. *Shop select stores and thebay.com*

NEW IN MEN'S OUTERWEAR

Norwegian outfitter Helly Hansen and American athletic brand Under Armour *(jacket, $114.99)* join our men's outerwear lineup. *Shop select stores and thebay.com*

KENDALL + KYLIE

Kendall and Kylie Jenner have launched a full line of tailored, feminine pieces *(dress, $328)* and shoes that speak to the sisters' differing tastes when it comes to dressing. *Available at Hudson's Bay Montreal Downtown, Toronto Queen Street, Toronto Yorkdale, Burlington Mapleview Centre, Calgary Chinook Centre, Edmonton Southgate Centre, Vancouver Downtown and thebay.com*

NEW IN FINE JEWELLERY

This collection of simple, contemporary jewellery combines Ginette NY designer Frédérique Dessemond's love of French culture and art history with street style *(from left: necklace, $500; necklace, $600; and ring, $775)*. Also, new to our fine jewellery collection are diamond and gemstone pieces by Delatori and Marco Moore. *Available at Hudson's Bay Toronto Queen Street and thebay.com*

HUDSON'S BAY

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Police say slain man seemed to be armed

INVESTIGATION

Wettlaufer, 21, negotiated with officers before death: Source

Alex Wettlaufer
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto police officers from the force's tactical unit negotiated with Alex Wettlaufer for at least 15 minutes before firing their weapons, killing the young man who a police source says was armed with either a real or replica gun.

Wettlaufer, 21, died after three Toronto police officers fired their weapons late Sunday night in a darkened ravine in a North York park near the Leslie subway station.

The man's grieving family has said Wettlaufer was not armed at the time of the shooting, and was holding his cellphone and speaking to his mother in the moments right before he was shot.

But a police source with knowledge of the investigation says Wettlaufer was carrying a gun, though it is not yet clear if it was real or a replica.

The source spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation into the fatal shooting has been taken over by the province's Special Investigations Unit, the civilian agency that probes deaths involving police. Police are legally not allowed to release information about the incident while the SIU is investigating.

The SIU, meanwhile, says it cannot confirm that Wettlaufer was armed because the investigation is ongoing. Information about whether the young man was armed may not be provided until the probe is completed, a process that typically takes several months or up to a year.

Toronto officers were first called around 11:15 p.m. after reports of a fight between two men at the Leslie subway station, near Leslie St. and Sheppard Ave. E. Toronto police tweeted at the time that one of them had a gun.

According to investigators, one of the men fled to the park across the street, where there was a confrontation with Toronto police. Soon after, members of the Emergency Task Force (ETF), a specially trained tactical unit called in for critical situations including when someone is armed, arrived to begin negotiations with Wettlaufer.

ETF officers are trained in negotiation, and generally, a negotiator will wear a recording device to capture audio, though it's not clear if that occurred in this case.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YORK REGION

Another charge in daycare case

York Regional Police have laid an additional charge of manslaughter against Olena Panfilova, one month after she was found guilty on provincial charges of running illegal and overcrowded daycares in Vaughan where two-year-old Eva Ravikovich was found dead in 2013.

Panfilova, 49, Ruslan Panfilov, and their 26-year-old daughter Karyna Rabadonova were due to be sentenced on Friday, March 18, after being convicted by a Newmarket court in February of operating the unlicensed daycares in neighbouring houses at 343 and 345 Yellowood Circ.

Eva Ravikovich was found dead in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Justice of the Peace Marie-Christine Smythe ruled in that case that there were 28 children — all under the age of 10 — in the daycares the night of Eva's death. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MURDER

Danzig Street shooter found guilty

A 21-year-old man accused of starting a deadly shootout that sparked panic at a July 2012 community barbecue in Toronto has been found guilty of second-degree murder.

Two people were killed and 22 others were injured in the Danzig Street shooting as rival gang members fired shots at each other.

The man who was found guilty on Thursday was 17 at the time of the shooting and cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Two other men pleaded guilty to various charges in the shooting and are serving prison sentences.

The shooting — which Toronto police called an "unprecedented" episode of violence — stunned the city and rocked the east-end community where it took place.

Police said the shooting was triggered when members of the Galloway Boys, a local street gang who allegedly "took ownership" of the neighbourhood barbecue, turned away a member of the Malvern crew, a rival gang.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

8.2% Decline in hate incidents in 2015 compared to 2014

134 Incidents categorized as hate crimes in 2015

19 Arrests in connection with hate crimes in 2015

22 Arrests in connection with hate crimes in 2014

Rise in anti-Muslim incidents

HATE CRIMES

Sharp spike in attacks after Paris tragedy: Police report

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A new Toronto police report draws a link between anti-Muslim attacks, the attacks in Paris and the arrival of Syrian refugees.

Verbal and physical attacks tied to Islamophobia spiked in November, the report says. Overall, 22 hate crimes were reported that month, almost double the number reported a year earlier.

A variety of incidents grabbed headlines at the time, including that of a Muslim women who was assaulted in front of a school and others who were harassed while riding the TTC.

"There was a particularly tense few weeks where Muslim women were trying to avoid walking alone or taking transit alone or even going out in public alone," said Safwan Choudhry, a spokesman for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Toronto and one of the organizers of the Je Suis Hijabi campaign.

The mood shifted, she said, after Toronto showed its "true character" and banded together in support of Muslims. There were marches against Islamophobia, thousands attended "try on the hijab" events, and in one case, a local couple cancelled their wedding and used the money to sponsor a Syrian family.

> We can move past these incidents ... by standing united.
> Safwan Choudhry

"Getting such huge support from people in the community really helped repel that fear," Choudhry said.

He hopes the city can continue to show that support in the wake of a violent Monday stabbing at a Canadian Forces centre in North York. The suspect, Ayanle Hassan Ali, 27, allegedly called out "Allah told me to" during the attack.

"Fortunately there haven't been any serious repercussions," Choudhry said. "But one thing we learn from our history is that we can move past these incidents much faster by standing united."

Thousands stood in solidarity with Muslims. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Overall, hate crime reports were down in the city last year. Police said 134 incidents were categorized as hate crimes, down more than eight per cent from 2014.

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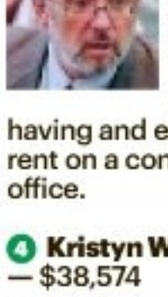
How councillors spent your cash

From mundane office supplies to gingerbread cookies and roaming charges, this is how Toronto city councillor expenses, posted online, add up.

Top spenders

1 Coun. Jim Karygiannis — $65,768

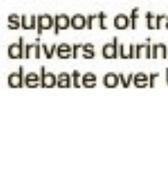


Most of the rookie Scarborough councillor's expenses ($44,984) went to setting up and maintaining his constituency office.

2 Ana Bailao — $50,032

The Davenport councillor spent $18,025 to communicate with constituents, paying for flyers advertising movie nights, an Easter egg hunt and street hump questionnaires.

3 Joe Mihevc — $43,977



He charged around $80 monthly for home Internet despite having and expensing rent on a constituency office.

4 Kristyn Wong-Tam — $38,574

The downtown councillor spent a bundle ($19,222) reaching out to constituents in her densely populated downtown ward.

5 Giorgio Mammoliti — $38,090

Mammoliti claimed $39 for a custom printed shirt from Bang-On in support of traditional taxi drivers during a council debate over Uber.

Low spenders

1 Rob Ford — $1,442 (personal funds $2,217)

Despite once calling reporters a "bunch of maggots," Ford's office continues to subscribe to both the Toronto Star and the Toronto Sun for $195.

2 Stephen Holyday — $3,505

Holyday is following in the footsteps of his father (Doug) as a penny pincher. He charged for a single roll of TTC tokens and hanging folders.

3 Frances Nunziata — $9,673

A third of the veteran councillor's relatively modest expenses went to postage, flyers and envelopes.

4 Sarah Doucette — $14,359

Almost half of the High Park zoo champion's expense claims were filed for postage and newsletters. She also claimed $750 for a ticket to the Book Lover's Ball.

5 David Shiner — $15,761

The low-spending council veteran left a $14 tip on a $94 bill for pork buns and chicken ramen with two guests at downtown's trendy Momofuku.

Notable cases

1 Norm Kelly — $26,662

Toronto's online darling dad billed the city $4,745 for "telecom services" last year, a tab that included Rogers and Telus bills for home Internet, BlackBerry and an iPad.

2 Michael Thompson — $29,513

As chair of the economic development committee, the frequent flyer racked up $6,698 in wireless charges.

3 Vincent Crisanti — $26,092

Crisanti spent $985 for gingerbread cookies and icing for his fourth annual "Cookies for Christmas" event in December.

4 John Filion — $27,566

Filion handed out $100 cheques to students in Ward 23 (Willowdale), honouring their community involvement (to be used toward post-secondary education) and then charged it back to the community by expensing it.

5 Mark Grimes — $28,920

Grimes submitted receipts totalling $3,252 for being out of range on his BlackBerry, despite having add-ons for talk and text in the United States.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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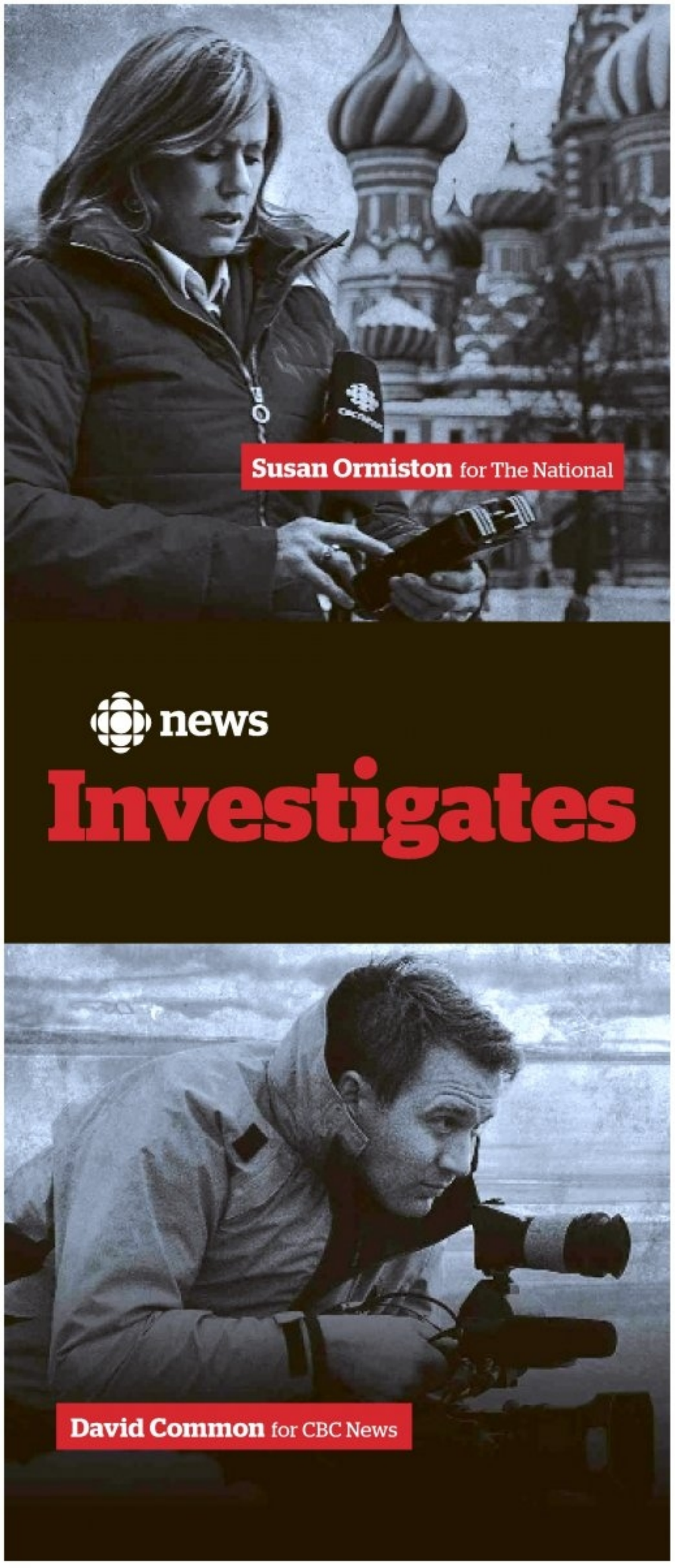

Farrah Khan is an activist and social worker at the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. Khan is the lead organizer behind the demonstration to be held Monday at the conclusion of Jian Ghomeshi's sexual assault trial. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

March empowers victims of violence

SEXUAL ASSAULT

As Ghomeshi verdict looms, rally supports survivors

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Moments after Justice William B. Horkins hands down his verdict in the Jian Ghomeshi trial Monday, hundreds of women will descend on Old City Hall to march in support of those who testified and the many others who've lived through sexual violence.

The march is being organized by the Centre for Women and Trans People and the Office of Sexual Violence Support and Education at Ryerson University.

"In the end we believe and support survivors, no matter what decision is made," said organizer Farrah Khan. "This is not about one court decision. This is an ongoing issue of access to justice for survivors."

Khan said Ghomeshi's trial is an example of the need for a broader national conversation about sexual violence. Statistics show few people are brave enough to report sexual violence to police, and there needs to be better mechanisms to support those who come forward, she said.

It's also about helping survivors heal from sexual violence, said Khan.

"Survivors are creating justice for themselves every day," she said. "It can be through arts, connecting with other survivors, telling their stories online or most importantly naming what happened."

Regardless of the verdict, Khan wants to show survivors they are not alone.

"There's power in knowing that there are people who are going to support you, people who won't blame you," she said.

RYERSON EVENT

Ryerson will hold a Verdict Self Care Crafternoon event, where people will "bring the feelings" into diversity of crafts — nail art, embroidery, knitting and collages.

The office will also launch an "I Believe You" colouring book in support of sexual violence survivors.

Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam is slated to speak at the rally.

IN BRIEF

Officer charged with assault

A veteran Peel Regional Police officer has been charged with assault.

Police say Sgt. Jeff Jones is charged in connection with an unspecified allegation.

The 15-year veteran is to appear in court April 13th to face the allegation.

Jones has been suspended from duty since the investigation started.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man charged with impersonation

A St. Catharines, Ont., man has been arrested for allegedly impersonating a peace officer.

Halton Regional Police say he was driving a vehicle with a police spotlight on the front driver side pillar and amber and red lights attached.

Peter Hunt, 48, is charged with two counts of impersonating a peace officer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No reasonable grounds to charge officer: Watchdog

The province's police watchdog says there are no reasonable grounds to charge a Hamilton Police officer in relation to the injuries sustained by an 18-year-old man last May.

The incident took place around 11 p.m. on May 9 when police responded to reports of an aggressive man armed with a knife in a home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 AREAS WHERE FEDERAL MONEY MIGHT FLOW INTO T.O.

The cash may be coming, but how to spend it is another matter. With details of the upcoming federal budget emerging, it's clear the Liberals plan to honour their pledge to invest at least $60 billion into municipal infrastructure projects. How much of it will land in Toronto remains to be seen, but there's no shortage of potential targets.

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

1 The TTC

The perennially cash-strapped public transit provider could use some federal help, either in the form of new projects like the Downtown Relief Line or simply through support for routine maintenance like signal upgrades.

"The TTC is fighting against a massive tide of aging infrastructure," said Matti Siemiatycki, a professor of urban planning and politics at the University of Toronto.

"The trains are aging, the streetcars are aging, the buses are aging and the rails are aging."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

2 Community housing

The federal government's willingness to pitch in to repair aging infrastructure is good news for Toronto's embattled social housing provider, which literally has bricks falling from its walls. TCH has been staring down a $2.6-billion repair backlog and was recently forced to close some 400 units. Another 7,500 units could be condemned if the cash doesn't materialize, TCH officials said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

3 TDSB

The school board also has a significant repair backlog, with documents from the provincial government showing half of TDSB schools in "critical" or "poor" condition. The situation came to a head last year after a six-year-old student was injured when a bathroom stall collapsed on her. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 Sewers & watermains

The city's sewer system is showing its age, notably with a rash of watermain breaks during the winter of 2015. Unfortunately, Siemiatycki said, sewers are some of the easiest infrastructure to neglect.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

5 Don River facelift

Following the successful Queen's Quay revamp, the city is turning its attention east. However, in order to develop more than 200 hectares in the Port Lands, the mouth of the Don River must be significantly altered to prevent flooding. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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RETIREMENT AGE

Canada sticking to 65

Canada will keep its retirement age at 65, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says.

The Stephen Harper Conservative government had planned to raise the retirement age to 67, but Trudeau said that this won't be happening in next week's budget.

"Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem," Trudeau said on Thursday morning in a question and answer interview with Bloomberg News in New York.

Trudeau said he prefers a "nuanced and responsible discussion" about retirement, arguing that investment bankers and lawyers don't put their bodies through the same physical strains as manual labourers. He defended his plans to invest in the middle class and said he's not worried about driving the wealthy out of the country.

"We have nothing against success in Canada," Trudeau said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem.
> Prime Minister Trudeau

Trudeau tricky on Trump

NEW YORK

PM deftly skates around offering a real opinion of The Donald

Americans got to witness a Canadian visitor this week immersed in an activity his nation prides itself on having mastered: stickhandling. The person performing the pivots was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The subject he repeatedly skated around: Donald Trump.

The prime minister was asked repeatedly during his visit to New York this week and in Washington last week what he thinks of the Trump phenomenon. He has answered each time without specifically mentioning the billionaire's name.

"I have tremendous confidence in Americans' capacity to get the right result through their electoral system," he said Thursday, echoing previous responses.

Later, he alluded to the U.S. election before a high-powered crowd. After receiving an award from a women's group at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, he said the reason he was able to introduce progressive policies like a gender-parity cabinet and welcome refugees was because his approach had won with voters.

"As much as I was able to do, and my government was able to do, we only did it because Canadians made a choice: to choose a more open, fair, positive way of doing politics," he told the ballroom crowd, which included the heads of McDonald's, Campbell Soup, Shell, and the Carnival Corp.

He added, dryly: "That is certainly something that I hope resonates through political systems around the world."

That last line prompted laughter and perhaps his loudest applause of the evening — louder even than his references to the gender-parity cabinet, which is why he was invited to the gala and given the award from the women's group Catalyst.

Amid the claps, he added: "I'm not thinking of any place in particular!"

Several former Canadian ambassadors to the U.S. have publicly warned the prime minister not to talk about the U.S. election, saying it would be a mistake to turn Canada into an issue in a messy election.

Trudeau's appearances before heading home later Thursday included an interview at Bloomberg, owned by Trump critic and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg wrote a laudatory piece about Trudeau this week headlined, Canada's New Hope.

There, he was asked again about what he would do if Trump becomes president. Trudeau replied that he understood why people were angry in many countries about the current political and economic systems and explained that he's working on democratic reforms and economic policies aimed at empowering frustrated voters.

With respect to a president Trump, he said he'd work on areas where they shared common ground. The interviewer pressed him — what possible common ground could the Canadian progressive find with an American Republican talking about walls and ripping up trade deals and banning Muslim visitors to the U.S.?

Trudeau replied: "A desire to see Americans do well. A desire to see citizens in our countries to have better jobs and greater opportunities."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in an interview at Bloomberg headquarters in New York. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses a press conference on March 15. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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The job posting has some critics wondering whether a Yoga instructor is the best use of police funds. ISTOCK

Yoga sessions for police questioned

CALGARY

Private job posting raises concerns over use of funds

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Ashtanga, Core Chaos and Yoga for your spine.

These are the yoga classes Calgary's police officers have been taking from a yogi for some time. But now the force is looking for a new face to help with sun salutations.

The posting has some wondering why officers need a private instructor to help with their daily practice.

It's part of force's wellness program — a perk for the job. The Calgary police website states there are fitness facilities at most CPS buildings. The force even provides a family doctor and chiropractor.

The online request for proposal posting is looking for "a yoga instructor with proven experience and expertise to provide yoga classes for sworn officers and civilian members of the Calgary Police Service." There's no salary listed. The past instructor seemed to give classes several times a day two times a week.

The job opportunity has some groups raising eyebrows during a dismal economic climate.

> **It actually saves off leave time, sickness time.**
> Coun. Ward Sutherland

"There might be some kind of wellness justification that can be made here," said Paige MacPherson, Alberta Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation. "Our economy is struggling greatly province-wide, and certainly these are the times when we hear government talk on scaling back on things that are maybe wants instead of needs."

Coun. Ward Sutherland, chair of the Priorities and Finance Committee and member of the Calgary Police Commission said he sees this as a non-story.

"It's part of the wellness clinic they have, and it's part of the budget ," said Sutherland. "It actually saves off leave time, sickness time."

Coun. Sean Chu who used to be a Calgary police officer said he never used the classes. He said he's seen aerobic fitness classes and other offerings that help officers avoid hours at the desk.

OTTAWA

Tragedy on Parliament Hill

Emma Jackson
Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

An RCMP officer has died after apparently shooting himself Thursday morning in a Sparks Street building just steps from Parliament Hill and less than a block away from the prime minister's Langevin Block office, sources say.

Ottawa police — who have yet to confirm those details — said their officers rushed to the scene for a "medical call."

Const. Marc Soucy said the call came in at 8:55 a.m. for an emergency at 90 Sparks, the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Building. He would only say a person had been taken to hospital.

Up to 10 police vehicles were positioned around the building, which borders Metcalfe, Queen and Sparks streets.

The RCMP later tweeted the force had lost one of its own.

Paramedics spokesperson JP Trottier said his team "responded to a call near that area earlier this morning" and a person was taken to hospital.

He wouldn't comment on the person's injuries, saying the investigation is in the hands of the police.

Police also cordoned off the Metcalfe side of the building, at number 33.

An investigator took photos of the side entrance and an RCMP vehicle that was parked on scene. Eventually, a tow truck picked up that car.

Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau pulled up on the Metcalfe side of the building in a white SUV.

He got out and shook hands with the two RCMP officers and OPS officer before driving off without speaking to the media.

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REFUGEE CRISIS

EU closes in on migrant deal with Turkey

European leaders struggled Thursday to reach a deal that balanced their concerns about legal protections for refugees and Turkey's human rights record with their desperate need to resolve the migrant crisis.

On the table was a tentative plan to send back to Turkey tens of thousands of would-be asylum seekers who set out by boat for the Greek islands, in exchange for concessions that would reward Ankara with billions of dollars in aid, unprecedented visa access to Europe and promises of faster European Union membership talks.

Human rights groups and leading EU legislators decried the plan as a cynical cave-in, sacrificing universal rights to pander to a restless electorate fed up with hosting people who are fleeing war and poverty.

Even some leaders acknowledged the EU was walking a tightrope.

"It is on the edge of international law," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said of the outline deal that the 28-nation bloc hopes to sign off on before putting it up for approval to Turkey on Friday.

> I refuse to accept negotiations that sometimes resemble a form of blackmail. Belgian PM Charles Michel

Some also criticized Turkey, which hosts 2.7 million refugees, complaining it was cynically trying to exploit the situation to win concessions well beyond its reach under normal circumstances.

"Turkey is really asking for a lot. I refuse to accept negotiations that sometimes resemble a form of blackmail," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yazidis, their family displaced by ISIS attacks, stand in their temporary home in Zakho, northern Iraq. GETTY IMAGES

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Kerry: 'ISIL is genocidal'

MIDDLE EAST

Declaration made official by congressional deadline

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks to the media at the State Department. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Obama administration on Thursday formally concluded the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is committing genocide against Christians and other minorities in Iraq and Syria, a declaration long sought by Congress and human rights organizations but likely to change little in the conflict against the extremists.

The determination, for which Congress had set a Thursday deadline, does not obligate the United States to take additional action against ISIL militants and does not prejudge any potential prosecution against its members.

Officials said the U.S. has already intensified its fight against ISIL and had effectively recognized the situation as a genocide more than a year ago when it agreed to increase the number of refugees, notably from Syria, that America accepts.

A day after the State Department said the administration would miss the deadline because it needed more evidence, Kerry said Thursday that he had completed his review after all and determined that Christians, Yazidis and Shiite groups are victims of genocide and crimes against humanity by the Islamic State.

Kerry outlined a litany of atrocities that he said the militants had committed against people and religious sites.

Using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group, he said, "Daesh (ISIL) is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions — in what it says, what it believes and what it does."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

First Puerto Rican woman with Zika has healthy baby

Officials in Puerto Rico say the first pregnant woman on the island infected with Zika has given birth to a healthy baby. The mosquito-borne virus has been linked to microcephaly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France recreates terror attacks to prevent more

French lawmakers leading an investigation into the deadly Nov. 13 attacks in Paris and some first responders at the Bataclan concert hall that night staged a re-enactment Thursday of the horror that left 130 people dead across the capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TRADE

Penalty on U.S. dollars nixed

Cuba's government said Thursday it plans to do away with a penalty on converting U.S. dollars, but warned the Obama administration not to expect more changes until the U.S. trade embargo is lifted.

Three days before President Barack Obama visits the island, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez dismissed Obama's lofty rhetoric about using his visit to speak directly to the Cuban people about their future. In a stern and lengthy speech in Havana, he put Obama on notice that any attempt to circumvent the Cuban government by lobbying Cubans directly would not be warmly received.

"Various U.S. officials have declared in recent hours that the objective of Obama's measures is empowering the Cuban people. The Cuban people empowered themselves decades ago," Rodriguez said, referring to the 1959 revolution that put the current Cuban government in power.

Of Obama's talk about engaging directly with Cubans, he added, "It's a nonsense approach."

Still, Rodriguez laid out a scenario under which the 10 per cent penalty on dollars exchanged at banks and moneychangers in Cuba would soon be lifted, making it easier and cheaper for Americans to spend time in Cuba.

Earlier this week the U.S. lifted a ban on Cuban access to the international banking system, a long-standing Cuban demand. Rodriguez told reporters in the Cuban capital that Cuba will attempt a series of international transactions in coming days. If they work, Cuba will eliminate the 10 per cent penalty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuban children play baseball in Havana as Cubans look forward to a game between Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban team on March 22. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Cuba, U.S. and Canada in between

The coming week is historic for Cubans and Americans, starting with U.S. President Back Obama's two-day visit to Havana on Monday and Tuesday — the first by a U.S. president since 1928. It ends with a free, open-air concert by the Rolling Stones on Friday.

Cuban President Fidel Castro and Pierre and Margaret Trudeau look over a photo album during the Trudeaus' 1976 state visit to Cuba. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Spotlight on CUBA

Stephen Kimber

In the spring of 2013, U.S. and Cuban negotiators needed a neutral location for secret talks that would lead — 18 months later — to the stunning Dec. 17, 2014, announcement the world's two "closest of enemies" were re-establishing relations. The only thing they could agree on initially, however, was that those talks should take place in friendly-with-both Canada.

Now, ahead of U.S. President Barack Obama's historic visit to Cuba, it's worth asking what the fast-evolving relationship between Washington and Havana — which we helped, in our modest way, to facilitate — will mean for the future of our own historic ties with Cuba.

After Fidel Castro's revolution triumphed in 1959, Canada was one of the few Western nations to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. In 1976, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau became the first NATO leader to visit.

For Canada, that visit became a symbolic moment in our quest for an elusive, independent "third-way" foreign policy, untethered to the United States or Great Britain. For Cuba, it was an important symbolic moment too — international recognition of its legitimate place in the world. "Viva Cuba!" Trudeau declared.

The visit had another far-reaching consequence too. Trudeau and Castro became such warm personal friends that, in 2000, the Cuban leader — by then ailing himself — flew to Montreal to serve as an honorary pallbearer at Trudeau's state funeral.

Although relations cooled during the Harper era — the Conservative government opposed Cuba's mere presence at events like the Summit of the Americas — the Cubans did not easily forget Canada had been its friend when others were not. In 2010, during Canada's unsuccessful bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, Cuban diplomats even openly lobbied on our behalf with their Latin American counterparts.

Thanks to the 55-year-old American embargo, which has effectively prevented Americans from trading with — or travelling to — Cuba, and to the 1990s collapse of Cuba's Soviet Bloc benefactors, Canada has had unparalleled access to the Caribbean island nation.

Calgary's Sherritt International — which boasts mining, oil-and-gas and electricity interests there — is now Cuba's largest foreign investor. And the million sun-seeking Canadians who fly south every winter to enjoy the island's spectacular beaches currently represent Cuba's largest source of foreign tourists. Cuba even hosts the largest Terry Fox run for cancer research in the world outside Canada.

With American businesses and individuals eager — and increasingly able — to share Cuba's long-forbidden fruit, Canada's role in Cuba will inevitably diminish. But it's worth reminding ourselves of that sweet 2010 moment at the United Nations when Cuba unexpectedly stood up for us. "You can trust Canada," said Cuba's Ambassador Pedro Nunez Mosquera.

Cubans do have long memories, and they won't forget who their friends have been.

Stephen Kimber is the author of nine books, including What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five, and a columnist at Metro Halifax

You can trust Canada.
Cuban Ambassador
Pedro Nunez Mosquera, in 2010

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Pet clothing sales frozen

RETAIL

Companies forced to lay off employees and cut prices

An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says.

"For us, it's a big hurt," said Marianne Bertrand, owner of Muttluks. The Toronto-based company estimates that sales of doggie coats and boots have slipped by more than 30 per cent this winter.

Muttluks, whose boots were recently given to U.S. President Barack Obama's dogs by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his state visit, was forced to lay off about a dozen employees when it prematurely shut production late last year.

Montreal pet store Doghaus said the warm winter prompted it to slash its prices in half and it plans to offer even deeper discounts to help clear inventory. "It wasn't a wasteland or anything, but it definitely was lighter than other years," said manager Sarah Miller-Barrington.

Industry surveys have suggested that most pet owners are willing to spend extra for the best products available, including food, even if they are more expensive.

Like many of her customers, Miller-Barrington says she tends to "mother" her eight-year-old Shetland Sheepdog named Fergus, even though his heavy fur coat protects him from the elements.

Sarah and her dog Fergus in the Doghaus pet supply store in Montreal. An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

$7 billion

What the pet business is worth annually, including food, clothing, accessories and trips to the vet, according to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

Just as parents outfit their children for the cold, many people feel the same obligation to their pets, she added. Others simply view it as an opportunity to make a fashion statement by finding a fun new dog coat each year.

K9 Excel owner Johanne Beaulieu said she hasn't seen this level of sales decline in the six years she's operated the Montreal store and website, which sells clothes, boots, and dog diapers.

A weaker economy, especially in Western Canada, has also contributed to diminished sales of pet products, says Louis McCann, CEO of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAPLE SYRUP

Producers face sticky situation

Many Canadians have been enjoying an unseasonably warm winter, but the balmy weather could spell trouble for maple syrup producers.

El Nino usually has a negative impact on harvesting and production of maple syrup, said Sylvain Charlebois, a professor at the Food Institute at the University of Guelph.

"It wouldn't be surprising to see 2016 as being a very bad year ... as a result of the warmer weather we've been having," said Charlebois. "I would say El Nino is affecting most if not all of the regions where maple syrup production is predominant." Those regions include Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and American states like Vermont and New York.

A mix of colder, sub-zero nights and warmer days above freezing are ideal syrup-producing conditions.

Charlebois said a poor season will put pressure on current supplies and may push prices higher next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMPORTS

Liberals under pressure to raise duty-exempt limit

With its maiden budget just days away, the new Liberal government is facing pressure to bump up Canada's duty-exemption limit from its current level of $20 for products shipped or mailed from abroad.

EBay Canada released new numbers Wednesday that suggest increasing the limit would benefit Ottawa's bottom line. For example, on goods valued between $20 and $80, the government spends roughly $160 million to collect only about $40 million in revenue, said eBay Canada managing director Andrea Stairs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SHARING ECONOMY

B.C. hot spot cracks down on Airbnb

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

One of B.C.'s hottest tourism destinations plans to crack down on unlicensed nightly home rentals on websites such as Airbnb in a bid to improve affordability and housing availability for long-term residents.

District of Tofino councillors voted this week to enforce regulations and educate people immediately about and surrounding bed and breakfasts and short-term rentals, which have flourished since Airbnb entered the scene two to three years ago. During the same time, rents went up and long-term rentals became harder to find, according to the motion by Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne.

Home rentals have been allowed in Tofino for a decade if the owner gets a business licence — these cost up to $375 — but this rule is often ignored and is only enforced on a complaint basis, Osborne said.

Council is concerned Airbnb listings take apartments off the market for seasonal tourism workers in the hot spot that was featured in the New York Times twice last year.

In focus groups conducted by the district, they found that short-term rentals are "critical" for property owners to be able to afford to buy in Tofino in the first place. Tofino's population was 1,876 in the 2011 census.

But anecdotal evidence has made council suspicious that the conversion of long-term rentals to short-term rentals is leading to evictions and higher rents, Osborne said.

Tofino staff will immediately act to educate owners about and enforce rules for short-term rentals, and will also come up with a long-term plan to deal with the issue.

Vancouver is expecting staff to report back this fall on how to handle Airbnb, Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

"The priority concern is it could be soaking up rental housing," he said, adding public safety is also a concern.

> "The ... concern is it could be soaking up rental housing."
> Coun. Geoff Meggs

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metro VIEWS

READ MY LIPS A new technique makes it easier to pinpoint unique chemicals in common lipstick brands — so **don't leave a kiss at a crime scene.**

SCIENCE FRIDAYS

DECODED Biological recycling

MICROSCOPIC MEALTIME

Did you crack a bottled soft drink today? Chances are it was made of PET, a super-durable plastic made from crude oil. Unlike organic waste, PET doesn't get broken down by bacteria (biodegraded) in the environment — at least, we didn't think so. Scientists have discovered a bacteria species that eats PET for lunch, and, with it, a potential way to **tackle one of the most perplexing pollution problems of our time.**

PET: PUBLIC ENEMY Poly(ethylene terephthalate), or PET, is incredibly stable. It breaks down into tiny, confetti-like pieces, but its chemical properties remain the same; It's still plastic. Birds eat it, fish eat it, and it collects in vast islands in the ocean. Only a fraction of the 53 million tonnes made per year gets recycled.

2 PETase breaks down PET into a smaller molecule called MHET

MHET MHET MHET MHET

1 Bacteria makes enzymes (proteins that break things down).

Enzyme #1 PETase, which breaks down PET

Enzyme #2 MHETase, which breaks down MHET

3 MHETase breaks down MHET into two environmentally friendlier chemicals, TPA and EG.

4 Bacteria further breaks down EG and TPA into food for its carbon and energy needs. Yum!

TPA (terephthalic acid)

EG (ethylene glycol)

BRILLIANT IDEONELLA Scientists from Keio University in Tokyo slogged through the sludge at a PET recycling yard and found a strain of bacteria previously unknown to science: **Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6.** It evolved to use plastic as a source of food. It can break down a thin, 60 mg film of PET in six weeks at 30 C, turning it into two chemicals that are relatively environmentally benign. The process is still too slow to apply on an industrial scale, but this is a start.

GRAPHICS BY ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Do chimpanzees believe in God?

QUESTION
Whoa. Chimps build shrines? Does this mean humans aren't the only species with religion? — Colin, Toronto

You know, Colin, it wouldn't surprise me. Chimpanzees have been observed using tools, warring among rival groups and dancing in the rain. They're known to practise a sort of communal chilling-out after meals that's been compared to gathering for worship.

However, I don't think there's conclusive evidence of chimp spirituality in the recent Nature paper you're talking about. It describes chimps caught on camera repeatedly and deliberately hurling rocks at trees and leaving distinctive stone piles (shrines?) around the forest. It didn't seem to be a mating ritual. It wasn't about food. There was no obvious evolutionary reason for it at all. The authors suggested it *could* be symbolic, or even sacred.

But very careful further study is needed, I think, because researchers have to fight the tendency we all have to *anthropomorphize*, or ascribe human characteristics to non-humans. It's one of our powerful cognitive biases (in-born patterns of flawed reasoning).

That said, this study made me think of a conference I went to where psychiatrist Martin Brüne presented findings about a possible PTSD-like syndrome in chimpanzees.

Brüne showed a video of a retired research chimp curled into a ball, rocking back and forth and hitting himself, much like I'd once seen a child with autism do, mid-tantrum. It looked eerily human.

The moderator said chimps continually exceeded his expectations: He always found they were more smart, more complex and more self-aware than he'd thought.

So I'd be open to the idea that our closest living relatives are into human-like things, such as prayer.

But we need to see more evidence first.

FINDINGS
Your week in science

Dengue vaccine
Doctors at Johns Hopkins University have announced a small, 100-per-cent successful clinical trial of a vaccine for dengue, one of the most common — and most feared— mosquito-borne diseases on Earth. (It's not called "bone-break fever" for no reason).

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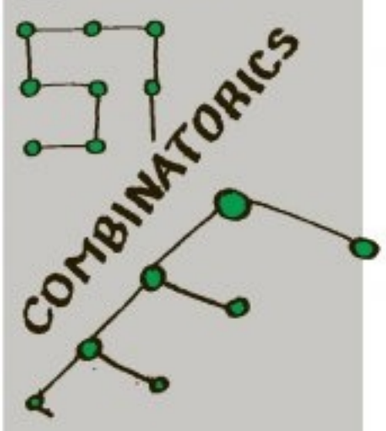

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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Where are all the movie stars?

ANALYSIS

Marketing trumps man in today's big studio films

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Where have all the movie stars gone?

Once upon a time big names on even bigger marquees were as close to a guarantee of good box office as one gets in the movie biz. But no more.

This weekend The Divergent Series: Allegiant, the third part of the young adult series, hit theatres. Based on the successful books, it stars Shailene Woodley and Theo James in a teen epic about dystopia, guilt and artfully tossed pixie haircuts.

In the new film the pair risk it all to go beyond the walls of their shattered city to discover the truth about their troubled world.

Woodley and James are appealing performers and despite having chiselled cheekbones and earning accolades (they won the Teen Choice Award for best liplock in Insurgent and Woodley was a Golden Globe nominee for The Descendants), no one is going to see Allegiant because they're in it.

Why? Because they're not movie stars — they're brand ambassadors.

The movie's brand is bigger than they are and that's the draw.

The Divergent Series is proof you don't need big names if you've got a big brand. CONTRIBUTED

Young adult movies like Twilight made Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart famous and superhero films reignited Robert Downey Jr.'s career and turned Chris Hemsworth into a sex symbol, but none of these actors have scored recent hits outside of their best-known brands.

These days the marketing is more important than the movie star.

It's almost a throwback to the very early days of cinema when actors weren't given billing or publicized for the films they made.

Fearing performers would demand larger paycheques if they became popular, the studios gave them nicknames instead.

Hamilton, Ont.-born Florence Lawrence was known as the Biograph Girl, named after the studio that produced her films, but with the release of The Broken Oath in 1910 became the first entertainer to have her name appear in the credits of a film.

Floodgates opened, soon names like Mary Pickford (another Biograph Girl), Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin festooned not only movie credits but posters as well, usually above the title.

The studios seized the marketing value of their actors and for years the star system was a money-spinner.

These stars were so powerful they not only sold tickets by the fistful but also influenced contemporary trends.

For instance, it's rumoured that sales of men's undershirts plummeted in 1934 when The King of Hollywood, Clark Gable, was seen without one in It Happened One Night.

As the legend goes, sales took such a hit several underwear manufacturers tried, unsuccessfully, to sue Columbia Pictures for damages.

For decades stars ruled supreme at the box office, but the business has changed. I'm guessing the movie studios love it because no film brand ever asked for more money or a bigger trailer.

Certainly Tom Cruise can still sell a ticket or three, but only if his movie has the words Mission Impossible in the title and Matt Damon was brought back in to add star sparkle to the new Jason Bourne movie after a lackluster reboot with Jeremy Renner. Jennifer Lawrence is a movie star. Her latest film Joy, the empowering story of a woman and her mop, wasn't a big hit but without her star power would likely never have been made at all.

But former sure bets like Will Smith, Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie cannot always be counted on for big returns.

It's not just the movie business's attitude toward fame that has changed, it's also ours.

Today a proliferation of YouTube superstars and social media has democratized fame and in a world and business where everyone is famous, no one truly is, not even the stars of a blockbuster such as The Divergent Series: Allegiant.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Divergent Series: Allegiant Part 1	★★
The Program	★★
Chi-Raq	★★★★
Knight of Cups	★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

DIVERGENT Q&A

Zoe Kravitz on being a self-professed nerd and indie film roles

Zoe Kravitz is gearing up for one more Divergent film after this latest instalment, Allegiant, hits theatres. But she might be able to squeeze in another hip indie — like last year's Dope — before heading back to finish off the YA dystopian series.

You are three movies into a four-movie series. How do you approach this section?
Yeah, it's interesting, it's kind of like going home again. I feel like I know this character so well now that, I know how she reacts to things, I know how I want her to evolve. But then you read the script and you go, "OK, this is a moment. How do I make that part of her come through?" I feel like that's where the work comes in.

What were some of those moments for this one?
I actually really enjoyed how quiet she is in this film. I think there was a lot of angst in her in the first film, but there was an immaturity there. Now so much has gone on, there's been real loss, real death, real killing, real revolution, so I think it's kind of shut her up in a really interesting way, where she's focused.

Do you know what happens going forward?
Yeah, I read the books, but I try not to dwell on it because once we've gotten the script that has got to be your focus, because you can't dwell on the things that aren't in there, you know what I mean? You're kind of like "OK, this is now what we're working with."

You go between these massive franchises and very interesting smaller films. How do you navigate that?
It's about if the story reflects something that I feel like I haven't seen or want to see more of or want to be a part of. It doesn't really come down to, "OK, I'm gonna do a really cool indie film, and I'm gonna do a big franchise film," you know? Mad Max, I loved the story. Divergent, I loved the story. Dope, I loved the story.

You've described yourself as a nerd. Why?
I'm a very nerdy person. Acting for me came from musical theatre, which some people might not think is nerdy. But it was not the coolest group of kids at school, it just never is. In all of the schools that I ever went to, that was my crew. I was in every play that I could get near and always singing in three-part harmony with my friends. I have that very campy part of myself. I was not the coolest kid in school, so I consider myself a nerd.

But nerds have really come into their own.
Yeah, I think people are beginning to not only accept but be intrigued by the less obvious things in life. It's not that we're less nerdy, we just don't care as much. Or people are not so quick to judge, hopefully. Nerds are more interesting, right?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

What the two actors express in brief glances is extraordinary, especially considering that De Sica cast non-professionals

The first time I ever had mozzarella in carrozza — a cheese and anchovy delight sandwiched between golden-crusted slices of fried bread — was at work. Over 10 years, I was a dish washer, coffee maker, server and eventually a floor manager at the original Terroni in Toronto — original because the southern Italian restaurant is now a mini-empire that includes not only a bakery and wine-importing arm but also two outposts in Los Angeles.

And the first time I ever saw mozzarella in carrozza outside of work was on screen in Neorealist Italian director Vittoria De Sica's Bicycle Thieves, one of the first films Simon and I ever watched together. The 1948 post-World War II film, which comes out on a new Criterion Blu-Ray special edition on March 29, is about a working class man, Antonio Ricci, who gets a job hanging posters on the caveat that he owns a bicycle. Ricci's wife pawns their bed linen in order to get Antonio's bike out of hock. Just as life looks sunnier for the young family, the bike is stolen. The rest of the film chronicles Antonio and his young son Bruno's quest for it in the gritty streets of Rome.

There's a single respite: seeing that Bruno is exhausted and disillusioned, Antonio offers to take him for a pizza with what little money he has left. As soon as they enter a restaurant, they (and the audience) know that everyone else is better-appointed then they are. It's not the type of place that serves pizza. So they order mozzarella in carrozza and a carafe of wine. Sweet Bruno, who barely knows how to use a knife and fork, eats his sandwich and drinks his wine with gusto. For a heart-breaking moment, they've not a trouble in the world.

THE MOVIE: Bicycle Thieves

THE MEAL: Mozzarella in carrozza

What the two actors, Lamberto Maggiorani and Enzo Staiola, express in brief glances — from desperation to exultation — is extraordinary, especially considering that De Sica cast non-professionals. (Maggiorani was a factory worker and Staiola was a neighbourhood boy who De Sica spotted from his car.)

Bicycle Thieves is, of course, political: it examines the social problems of postwar Italian reconstruction. But it's themes — including how our lives can feel both predetermined and full of chance — are universal. In 1999 Roger Ebert gave the film four stars on account of this: "it is a simple, powerful film about a man who needs a job," he wrote. "[It] had such an impact on its first release that when the British film magazine Sight & Sound held its first international poll of film makers and critics in 1952, it was voted the greatest film of all time."

After we recently re-watched it, we agreed the film was more impactful the second time around, particularly the ending when out of desperation Antonio steals a bike and is mobbed by an angry crowd while Bruno, in tears, watches on. The last shot, a tip of the hat to fellow director Charlie Chaplin, shows Antonio and Bruno dissolving into a crowd. "It's a perfect film," Simon said as we wiped our eyes. There weren't any other words. By chance, we recently walked into Terroni, the place where I passed from my twenties into my thirties and became something approximating an adult, and where, by chance, I first met Simon. And, by chance, there on the special's menu, was mozzarella in carrozza. Our eyes lit up.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

FILM BRIEF

China-Tinseltown venture unveils a dozen new movies

A joint Hollywood and Chinese production house announced this week a slew of upcoming films, including an action-horror flick about a giant shark, as moviemakers increasingly look to tap into China's vast market.

The announcement in Hong Kong was made by Flagship Entertainment, a tie-up between Warner Brothers, China Media Capital and Hong Kong television broadcaster TVB and comes with Hollywood awash with constantly growing Chinese funding.

Flagship unveiled 12 new films. They include Meg, about the discovery of a gigantic ancestor of the great white shark, and Beautiful Coma, a romance co-produced by Hong Kong director Peter Chan and U.S. director Brett Ratner, who directed the Rush Hour franchise.

Other productions include a remake of Miss Congeniality and another comedy Mission Milano which stars popular Hong Kong actor Andy Lau. AFP

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Actor defends Lance Armstrong

FALLEN SPORTS HERO

Ben Foster had to learn about doping culture for role in film

After enduring an intense exercise regime, secretly using performance-enhancing drugs, and immersing himself in the world of Lance Armstrong to portray the cyclist on the big screen, Ben Foster was left with one feeling for the controversial athlete.

"Empathy," said the actor. "It was a complicated time. He's a complicated man."

It's a feeling Foster hopes audiences can also come away with after watching The Program, which tracks Armstrong's incredible cycling career and the behind-the-scenes doping that drove it.

OPENING IN CANADIAN CITIES
The Program opens in Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa, Vancouver and Montreal on Friday.

Armstrong, a cancer survivor and longtime athlete, was once an American sporting hero, but is now a divisive figure.

He has been banned from cycling for life and had his seven Tour de France titles stripped after telling Oprah Winfrey in a 2013 interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Foster knew the bare-bones of Armstrong's story before making The Program, which was directed by British filmmaker Stephen Frears. But playing the athlete made him appreciate the broader culture of doping that existed in cycling at the time.

"He did doping better. He did nutrition better. He did the cycling gear better. He did training better. It's not about being a liar. If everybody's doping, everybody's lying," Foster said, noting that Armstrong also raised millions for cancer research over the course of his career.

"He treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration."

To properly capture Armstrong's intensity, Foster — unbeknownst to the rest of his cast, but under the supervision of a doctor — took performance-enhancing drugs himself and only revealed what he had done after filming had wrapped.

He also tried to reach out to Armstrong, but the athlete wasn't interested in talking.

Foster nonetheless describes himself as a fan of Armstrong's, saying he found himself defending the cyclist on the set of the film.

"We don't like that Lance didn't apologize in a way that felt sincere. And that's why we're punishing him still," he said. "I don't condone or condemn ... I think it's a complicated story." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANOTHER TAKE

Lance fascinating person to watch, says O'Dowd

Chris O'Dowd, who plays David Walsh, an Irish journalist who worked to bring Armstrong's doping into the spotlight, agreed that the cyclist is a complex character and noted that the film attempts to provide a better picture of the intricacies of his world.

"He was an incredible athlete, very manipulative, vindictive, self-centred, very smart, and ego driven," he said. "I think he's a fascinating person to watch."

O'Dowd's personal feelings about Armstrong, however, tend to waver.

"At times I feel slightly sorry for him. But then I think of how he treated some people ... and I think, 'I don't know if he needs our sympathy,"' he said. "I think he's a fallen hero, but still a kind of hero."

Ben Foster stars as Lance Armstrong in The Program directed by Stephen Frears. CONTRIBUTED

[Lance Armstrong] treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration.
Ben Foster on the controversial sports hero

Spike Lee's take on gang violence

Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) is the woman who leads the move to withhold sex from men in Chicago's South Side until the gun violence stops in Spike Lee's new joint Chi-Raq. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Chi-Raq inspired by ancient Greek play

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

"The human spirit is a great thing," says director Spike Lee on what he learned while doing research for his new film. The director spent six months in South Side Chicago, "talking to people, meeting people, getting the lay of the land," before shooting a single frame of his anti-gang-violence movie Chi-Raq.

"It was very important, not just meeting people, but people becoming comfortable with me. People opening up to me."

The movie draws its story about a neighbourhood woman who convinces the wives and girlfriends of gang members to withhold sex from their men until the guys agree to put down their weapons from a Greek play first performed in 411 BC, but details the very modern problem of gun violence.

"At the end of the movie in that scene where everybody is dressed in white," says Lee, "those women are not actresses. Those women are members of a group called Pain Over Purpose. They are mothers whose children, whose sons and daughters, have been shot down in the streets of Chicago. Those pictures they are holding up are pictures of their loved ones.

"The pain of a parent who has lost a child in any circumstance is something that no parent should have to go through. They all say that there is a hole in their spirit, in their soul, that will never be replaced. Many of those mothers have tried to commit suicide and had various other problems since then but they are holding strong."

The cycle of violence portrayed in the film and acted out for real on the streets — during Chi-Raq's 38-day filming schedule 331 people were wounded and shot, 65 people were murdered in Chicago — was personal for one of the movie's stars.

"Do you know Jennifer Hudson's history?" asks Lee. "It is known knowledge that Jennifer's mother, brother and nephew were murdered in Chicago. I think that's extra gravitas that you have with Jennifer Hudson in this film. This is not an act for her. She got hit directly by gun violence on the South Side of Chicago.

"I didn't want her to think that I was exploiting her. I knew I wanted her for the part but there was some length of time before I got the courage to approach her.

"Also, when we did meet I was babbling. She said, 'Spike, I know why you want me to do this film, so just stop. I'll do it.' I was trying to be sensitive and I turned out to just beat around the bush. I said, 'I'll just shut up and say thank you.'"

Lee is fearless in his handling of the material, taking chances narratively — the entire film is presented in verse — and visually, to tell the timely and hot-button story of a "self-inflicted genocide."

Finding the mix of heartfelt storytelling and satire, says Lee, was crucial to the success of the film. "It is not an easy thing to do," he says.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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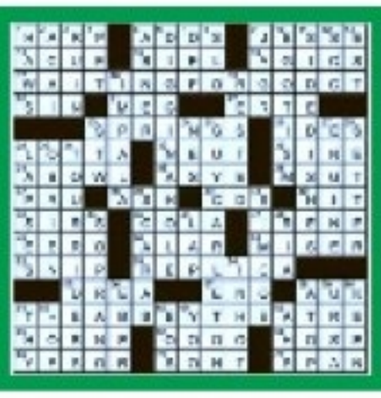

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Marvel's Elektra is a 'sociopath': Actress

NETFLIX

Yung plays Daredevil's love interest in second season

Elektra, the ninja warrior and love interest of the Marvel superhero Daredevil has not fared well in the minds of some fans.

The last time we saw her she was played by Jennifer Garner in the 2005 movie of the same name. Garner, wife of former Daredevil Ben Affleck, played Elektra less as damaged psychopath and more like a suburban soccer mom with a bag full of ninja flying stars.

That image will likely be erased with the second season of Netflix's Daredevil which lands Friday.

French-Cambodian actress Elodie Yung has been cast as Elektra Natchios, and she seems determined to hew to Frank Miller's much more intense vision of the character.

"She's basically a sociopath," says Yung in an interview. "That's basically how I played her. She can't bond properly with anyone. For her it's a game. She is a complex character who suffered when she was young and now tries to fight her demons. But she copes in the sense that if she has a goal to achieve, nothing will stop her."

Yung seems born for the role of Elektra. For one thing, she is a black belt in karate. She's also got smarts, having a masters in law from the University of Paris. This is also not her first time at the ninja superhero game, having played the very Elektra-like Jinx in G.I. Joe: Retaliation.

"I think yes, she has some darkness in her definitely. I think there's a journey to her. She will question all that. She will try to find the truth about herself," says Yung. "She is mysteriously cold, and she's a very mysterious character when she comes back into Matt (Daredevil) and his world But still, there is something deep going on between the two."

The complexity of the character seems to suit the new, darker Netflix Marvel universe, of which the first season of Daredevil proved to be a hit. The follow up series Jessica Jones — the best superhero show of 2015 — followed on that premise, with several more series still in production culminating in the team-up series The Defenders.

Elodie Yung stars as Elektra in Season 2 of Netflix's Daredevil. CONTRIBUTED

Fans of Season 1 will find Season 2 mostly satisfying, but not as intriguing as the first. This time around Daredevil has some superhero buddy help to keep things interesting. Critics were given the first seven episodes of the season.

In Season 2 Matt Murdoch is joined by not just Elektra, but Frank Castle, also known as The Punisher played by The Walking Dead's Jon Bernthal. Deborah Ann Woll, Elden Henson and Rosario Dawson also return.

What made Season 1 riveting was the origins story of how a blind lawyer turns into the man without fear. The character arc of Murdoch coincides with the rise of the Kingpin (Vincent D'Onofrio) as one of the best villains on television.

Without a charismatic villain, the writers don't get luxury of that kind of back story to play with in the new season. Much of the first half of the second season is Daredevil jousting with his new superhero buddies, which is good fun — but not the psychodrama of Season 1.

Bernthal's Punisher feels flat — although the character is difficult to play since his mood ranges from rage to over the top rage and it's hard to find emotional common ground.

Yung's Elektra as love interest and superhero is more rounded and intriguing. She adds an icy, submersive element that contrasts with Matt Murdoch's boy scout leanings.

Yung says she grappled to coming to terms with the character when she was first cast.

"It was my big problem at the beginning when I started to dig into what is a sociopath. I … needed to get empathy, not to judge her. She lies, she kills, I didn't want to judge that," says Yung.

So far Yung says she has not viewed the 2005 Elektra film because she didn't want to be influenced by the role. She did read the comics though.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Your essential daily news

Scans show '90 per cent chance' of hidden chambers in Tutankhamun tomb

How the stars brought golf to Palm Springs

With more than a 110 courses and a 1950s ring-a-ding vibe, Palm Springs is one of the best places to gulf in North America. COURTESY OF VISITGREATERPALMSPRINGS.COM

CALIFORNIA

Desert oasis a top place to tee-off

Brian Kendall
For Metro Canada

Golf and Palm Springs go together like Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

Hope, Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and other celebrity golfers helped popularize the game in a desert oasis famous as Hollywood's Haven.

Just 193 kilometres east of downtown Los Angeles, Palm Springs provided a welcome escape from the city's smog and congestion. The stars came to bask in the abundant sunshine and delight in the starkly dramatic scenery of the Coachella Valley.

With more than 110 courses, golf remains a major draw throughout a popular sunbird destination that works hard to retain its ring-a-ding 1950s vibe. Between tee-offs, budget time for a tour of the sleekly elegant midcentury modern hotels and civic buildings, shopping on posh North Palm Canyon Drive, and a happy hour cocktail at Melvyn's, one of Sinatra's old haunts.

Golf came to the Coachella Valley in 1925 with the opening of O'Donnell Golf Club, a private course frequented by Clark Gable and other matinee idols.

Today, courses by acclaimed golf architects are scattered throughout Greater Palm Springs, an area encompassing old Palm Springs and eight seamlessly connected sister communities, most notably La Quinta, Palm Desert and Indian Wells.

Former host of the Bob Hope Classic, SilverRock Resort's Arnold Palmer Classic Course in La Quinta is spectacularly routed along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains. La Quinta is also home to PGA West, one of North America's premier golf properties. Most famous of the resort's six layouts is the Stadium Course, a Pete Dye-designed monster rated one of the game's best — and toughest — courses.

A highlight in Palm Desert is Shadow Ridge Golf Club, an expertly sculpted Australia Sandbelt-inspired course by Nick Faldo. Equally strong are the two Hurdzan-Fry designs at Desert Willow Golf Resort.

CELEB POWER
Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and others helped popularize gulf in Palm Springs.

And the must-play in Indian Wells is the Players Course at Indian Wells Golf Resort. This unyielding John Fought design stretches nearly 7,400 yards from the tips.

Other top courses include Eagle Falls Golf Course, Escena Golf Club, the Pete Dye and Gary Player layouts at Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa, and Shadow Mountain Golf Club, one of the few courses designed by the legendary Gene Sarazen.

With street names like Jack Benny Road, Gene Autry Trail and Ginger Rogers Road, even the drive to your next tee time or sightseeing excursion becomes more adventure than chore in this celebrity obsessed burg.

Sunnylands, at the intersection of Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope Drives in Rancho Mirage, is another notable haunt of Hollywood luminaries past and present.

Built in the 1960s for publisher, diplomat and philanthropist Walter Annenberg, the pink-roofed Desert Modernism-style mansion (complete with a nine-hole golf course) is now open to the public.

Presidents from Eisenhower to Obama have visited. When greeting Queen Elizabeth in 1983, Annenberg announced she would "see how ordinary Americans live."

Welcome to Palm Springs.

Visit Brian's website at canadiangolftraveller.com

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Ybor: A Latin city within a city

TAMPA

(Real) home of The Cubano also a bird sanctuary

Ybor City (pronounced e-bore) was founded as a cigar-making town and boasts a multicultural heritage. PHOTOS JENNIFER BAIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Roosters strut around Ybor City, congregating in the public parking lot, loitering in the park, cock-a-doodle-dooing like they own the joint.

They do, actually.

These privileged chickens are descendants of the backyard birds raised by the neighbourhood's first residents — the melting pot of immigrants that started arriving in the 1880s to work in cigar factories.

Little Miami and New Orleans' Latin Quarter know how to market themselves, but Ybor City (named for Vicente Martinez Ybor, who bought swampland here in 1885 and started building cigar factories) is just starting to tap into its tourist potential.

The neighbourhood, connected to downtown by a retro streetcar, was once the cigar capital of the world.

"Cigar City" is the birthplace of the Cuban sandwich and home to Florida's oldest restaurant. It boasts a multicultural heritage (Cuban, Spanish, Sicilians/Italians, Jewish), still sells hand-rolled cigars and even has a mafia tour.

Let's eat first.

The Cubano was invented here, not in Miami like people think, and it's the city's official sandwich.

Cigar workers needed something portable for lunch in the late 1800s and so the mixto ("the mixed") was born. The combination of Cuban bread and pork with ham (for the Spaniards), Genoa salami (for the Italians) and Swiss cheese, kosher pickles and yellow mustard (for the Germans) is now called the Cuban sandwich.

At the Columbia restaurant, Andrea Gonzmart Williams, one of the fifth-generation owners of the family-run business, takes me into the kitchen.

Columbia — which started in 1905 and is the state's oldest restaurant — makes its own sugar-glazed ham and mojo-marinated pork and gets Cuban bread from La Segunda Central Bakery twice a day.

"My father (Richard Gonzmart) is a firm believer that if you don't layer the meat in the proper order, it won't hit the palate properly," says Williams.

Ham goes first, then pork, then salami. Salami "is the difference between a Tampa Cuban and a Miami Cuban." One big slice of Swiss goes next and two pickles. Mustard gets slathered on the inside of the top bun. Eat it cold if you must, like the factory workers used to, but it's infinitely better buttered on the outside and pressed until the cheese melts and it gets crisp.

"Mayo's great but I've never had it on a Cuban, though — my father would kick my butt," allows Williams, who likes her sandwiches extra crispy and sliced on the diagonal.

You don't have to look hard to find Cubanos in this town, but locals swear by the perpetually packed Brocato's Sandwich Shop, and U.S. President Barack Obama visited the West Tampa Sandwich Shop and inspired the Honey Cuban Obama Sandwich.

Another Ybor City hot spot is Carmine's, where Leon Boone has been making sandwiches for 21 years.

"I make about 100 a day, on Saturday I make like 200 and the most I ever made is 600 in a day. I've made billions and billions. I'm like McDonald's."

Boone doesn't eat many of his creations (occupational hazard), but he "makes 'em good." Ask for yours "all the way" and you'll get mustard, mayo, lettuce and tomatoes.

"You've got to put love in there" is Boone's final word on the subject.

Like Columbia, Carmine's gets its Cuban bread from La Segunda Central Bakery, which has been around since 1915. Come here for pastries, bread, Cuban toast and sandwiches and coffee.

Third-generation co-owner Anthony Moré takes me in the back to see how Cuban bread is baked. It's shaped like a baguette but uses a slightly different recipe.

His late grandfather moved to Ybor City from Catalan after fighting in the Spanish-American War in Cuba. "We think he learned some of this in Cuba, especially the palm leaf part of it," says Moré.

> **"There's a Florida state park ranger that protects them. Even the cats don't mess with the chickens**
> Wallace Reyes, cigar maker and historian

Fronds from the palmetto tree are split, sanitized, dried and laid on handmade baguettes that are flipped and baked. As the bread goes into the oven for a rapid rise, the fronds cause a crease along the seam. Customers like the inedible greenery left on.

"It's a pretty unique process and pretty much only in Tampa," boasts Moré.

The cigar industry may have gone bust, but at one point there were about 230 factories here employing 12,000 cigar makers and producing 700 million cigars a year.

Cigar culture is still a unique part of Ybor City (which is pronounced e-bore, by the way). Monica Barbie makes purses from vintage cigar boxes, while her mom Rose Barbie sells framed or unframed vintage cigar labels, bands and posters.

Watch cigar makers at work in shops on the 7th Ave. commercial strip where you can have a smoke and drink Cuban coffee.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This trip was sponsored by Visit Tampa Bay, which didn't review or approve this story.

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TRAVEL NOTES SO BAD IT'S GOOD, DANCE! & H.P. LOVECRAFT

Detroit museum's exhibit explores dance in America

A new exhibit organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes to celebrate and explain the importance of dance in American culture. Dance! American Art 1830-1960 runs until June 12. Live performances, movies, dance demonstrations and talks are planned as part of the exhibit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dance by Aaron Douglas. DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

H.P. Lovecraft.

Fans use Lovecraft to promote Providence's weird side

Fans of H.P. Lovecraft's writings are trying to use the growing fame of the early 20th century fantasy-horror writer to promote Providence's weird side. Lovecraft so identified with Rhode Island's capital city that he wrote "I am Providence" in a letter. His headstone bears the phrase. Some of Lovecraft's best-known works are set in Providence. Tuesday marks the 79th anniversary of his death. A marker will be unveiled near where Lovecraft's childhood house once stood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish town looks to revive botched fresco hype

More than three years after a botched fresco restoration by an octogenarian painter became a major tourist attraction for the northern Spanish town of Boria, local officials are looking to inject new life into the phenomenon by opening a centre that celebrates the fresco. The story of Cecilia Gimenez's restoration of a Christ fresco in a town sanctuary went viral in 2012.

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metro SPORTS

FIFA says it paid Sepp Blatter $3.76 million in 2015, and also reported a loss of $122 million for a year blighted by scandal.

Diamond sparkles again

MLB SPRING TRAINING

Pitcher perfect on Jays' split day as Penny is left under pressure

Toronto Blue Jays manager John Gibbons split his squad Thursday and ended up with two very different outcomes. While one line-up powered past the Canadian juniors in Dunedin, across in Kissimmee, the other Jays were blown away early on by the Astros.

While Brad Penny was struggling to contain the Houston onslaught, two hours east, under Gibbons' watchful eye, Scott Diamond was continuing to shine.

The 29-year-old from Guelph tossed two perfect innings and prospect Connor Panas homered as the Jays selection blanked the Canadian junior national team 12-0.

Diamond, who has not allowed a run in five spring outings, struck out four. The left-hander is battling for an opening-day roster spot but has not appeared in a big league game since going 6-13 with Minnesota in 2013.

Stints with the Cincinnati Reds and Tampa Bay Rays in the intervening time have only yielded frustration for Diamond who is doing his best to ensure this latest chance doesn't go the same way.

Panas, a ninth-round selection out of Canisius in last year's draft, hit an RBI double off 18-year-old starter Josh Burgmann in the second. He added a solo shot to right field in the fifth as part of a four-run inning.

Scott Diamond is making the most of his chance with the Jays. STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR FILE

> **They get a thrill out of it. We've got some of our bigger big league players who are Canadian so it's a fun day.**
>
> John Gibbons, Blue Jays manager.

Russell Martin went 0 for 1, grounding into a double play in the first. Gibbons said facing Team Canada has become a tradition his players look forward to each spring.

"They get a thrill out of it," he said. "Of course, we've got some of our bigger big league players that are Canadian. so it's a fun day. You've got to tip your hat to the program they're running over there."

Four Toronto pitchers combined on a one-hitter. But rivaling them for most impressive performance of the day was an unlikely contender.

Dressed in full uniform, Blue Jays bat boy John O'Connor performed both "O Canada" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" before the game. After finishing to a strong ovation, O'Connor got a fist bump from first base coach Tim Leiper before taking his seat next to the Blue Jays' dugout.

On the injury front, Edwin Encarnacion (strained oblique) participated in pregame warm-up exercises, but Gibbons said no timeline has been set for his return. Marco Estrada (sore back) is scheduled to make his spring debut in relief of J.A. Happ on Sunday against the Pirates

On the flip side of Thursday's split-squad effort, Carlos Correa and Preston Tucker homered and George Springer scored three times in the Astros' 7-5 win over the Jays.

Correa's homer gave the Astros a 5-0 lead in the second inning against Penny after a leadoff triple by Springer. The second spring homer for Correa, the AL's Rookie of the Year last year at the age of 20, was hit over the centre field wall.

"He's going to be pitched differently this year and he's going to have to adapt to different styles of pitching," said manager A.J. Inch.

Penny gave up five runs on four hits and three walks in two innings. Josh Thole had two hits and drove in two runs.

Aaron Sanchez is scheduled to make his second start Friday against the Astros in Dunedin. The 23-year-old righty, who is competing for the fifth spot in the rotation, struck out four in four scoreless innings Sunday against Tampa Bay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPRING WRAP

Mets', Royals' stars shine
Mets right-hander Jacob deGrom showed no lingering effects from back tightness, out-pitching Miami Marlins ace Jose Fernandez in a 6-5 win Thursday. Kendrys Morales hit his first home run this spring, helping the Kansas City Royals to a 5-1 victory over the Dodgers.

EUROPA LEAGUE

Liverpool gives boot to United

A stunning solo goal by Philippe Coutinho helped Liverpool eliminate great rival Manchester United from the Europa League, while titleholder Sevilla and tournament favourite Borussia Dortmund also reached the quarterfinals with ease on Thursday.

Liverpool drew 1-1 with United at Old Trafford to seal a 3-1 aggregate victory, with Coutinho scoring the equalizer — and all-important away goal — on the stroke of halftime by dribbling into the box and applying an extravagant chip for his finish.

The draw for the quarterfinals, which also includes Sparta Prague, Braga, Villarreal, Athletic Bilbao and Donetsk, takes place on Friday.

Man United's only possible route to next season's Champions League now rests solely through a top-four finish in the Premier League, which is currently looking unlikely with the team in sixth place with nine games left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scorer Philippe Coutinho. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEEL THE STRAIN Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan shoots next to Indiana Pacers center Jordan Hill (27) during the first half in Indianapolis, Thursday. For more on the game, go to metronews.ca. MICHAEL CONROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

Day's delighted as he tames Bay Hill

Jason Day felt he was playing better. He finally had a score to show for it Thursday at Bay Hill.

Day one-putted his last seven holes, including a 10-foot eagle putt on the par-5 16th to take the lead and two tough par saves at the end for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Among those one shot behind was Adam Scott, which was no surprise. Scott is the hottest player in golf, coming off two straight victories at the Honda Classic and the Cadillac Championship at Doral.

"There was no sense of urgency at all for me, really," Day said. "I just kept on saying, 'Just make sure you stay patient and things will happen, it will happen.' I just got to make sure I get the reps under my belt and hope it will work. This is one good round, one good round in the right direction ... So that helps."

Rory McIlroy made a pair of double bogeys and opened with a 75. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Gee-Gees fall to Huskies
Dalyce Emmerson had 25 points to lead the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies past No. 7 Ottawa Gee-Gees 73-62 on Thursday at the Canadian university women's basketball tournament.

Kellie Ring led Ottawa with 19 points. The Saint Mary's Huskies edged the Alberta Pandas 53-52. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boxers book up Rio spots
Canadian boxers Mandy Bujold and Ariane Fortin have qualified for this summer's Rio Olympics. Both fighters won their semifinal bouts at the American qualifying tournament Thursday to book their tickets to Brazil.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tough draw for U-20s
Canada has been given a stiff test in Group B with Nigeria, Japan and Spain for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Papua New Guinea in November.

Nigeria, the seeded team in the pool, was runner-up to Germany in 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs roll out another rookie

NHL

Connor Brown debuts against Florida at ACC Thursday

The parade of Toronto Maple Leafs playing their first NHL game continues.

Connor Brown made his NHL debut on Thursday night when Toronto hosted the Florida Panthers. He became the 10th Leaf to do so this season.

Brown played alongside veterans Milan Michalek and Ben Smith. He was recalled from the AHL's Toronto Marlies on an emergency basis with veteran forward Leo Komarov ailing.

The Toronto native was selected in the sixth round (156th overall) of the 2012 NHL draft by the Leafs. Brown impressed at the NHL squad's training camp, earning strong reviews from head coach Mike Babcock.

"He was our best kid in training camp, for sure. Could've made our team," Babcock said prior to Thursday's game.

The AHL's most productive rookie last season with 61 points in 76 games, Brown broke his ankle in the fall. The 22-year-old has 24 points (nine goals, 15 assists) in 28 games, having accumulated eight points in a three-game stretch earlier this month.

"I felt like I was pretty close as to the way I was playing in the American League, battling back from injury," said Brown. "I felt like I was getting better and better.

"It's really nice to be recognized, extremely excited to be here."

Brown joins Byron Froese, William Nylander, Brendan Leipsic, Kasperi Kapanen, Zach Hyman, Viktor Loov, Garret Sparks, Rinat Valiev, and Nikita Soshnikov as players to make their NHL debuts for Toronto this season.

> **He was our best kid in training camp, for sure.**
> Mike Babcock on Connor Brown

All but Froese and Sparks played their first games after the Feb. 29 trade deadline.

Not blessed with terrific size when drafted by the Leafs, Brown has filled out somewhat since. Babcock says Brown's "elite hockey sense," and strong offensive instincts combined to land him in the NHL where size matters less than in years past.

"He's going to be a good NHL player for a long period of time," Babcock said.

Brown said he understood the team's plan for him.

He replaces Komarov, who was injured in Toronto's 4-1 win over Tampa on Tuesday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Welcome to the NHL, rookie! Toronto Maple Leafs' Connor Brown is slammed into the boards by Florida Panthers' Garrett Wilson during his first NHL game. For more on the game, go to metronews.ca. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOCKEY

NHL deals with its all-American problem

With the rare prospect of an all-American NHL post-season looming large, Gary Bettman hopes Canadians still tune in to watch the battle for the Stanley Cup.

The NHL commissioner acknowledged in an interview there is a sense of uncertainty regarding TV ratings in Canada, with no Canadian teams likely to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1970.

Still, he was hopeful that fans north of the border would tune in regardless.

Bettman said local teams "tend to draw better" in terms of ratings.

"But as long as the hockey is entertaining and exciting and competitive we're hoping and expecting that fans will tune in and watch great hockey," he added.

The four lowest-placed teams in the NHL are Canadian, as are six of the bottom 10. The Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers have the fewest points in the league, just behind the Calgary Flames and Winnipeg Jets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Veggie Sloppy Joes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You won't miss the meat but will love the flavour upgrade of this classic comfort meal. Don't forget the napkins.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 Sloppy Joes

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans of black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers. Saute until the vegetables are softened.

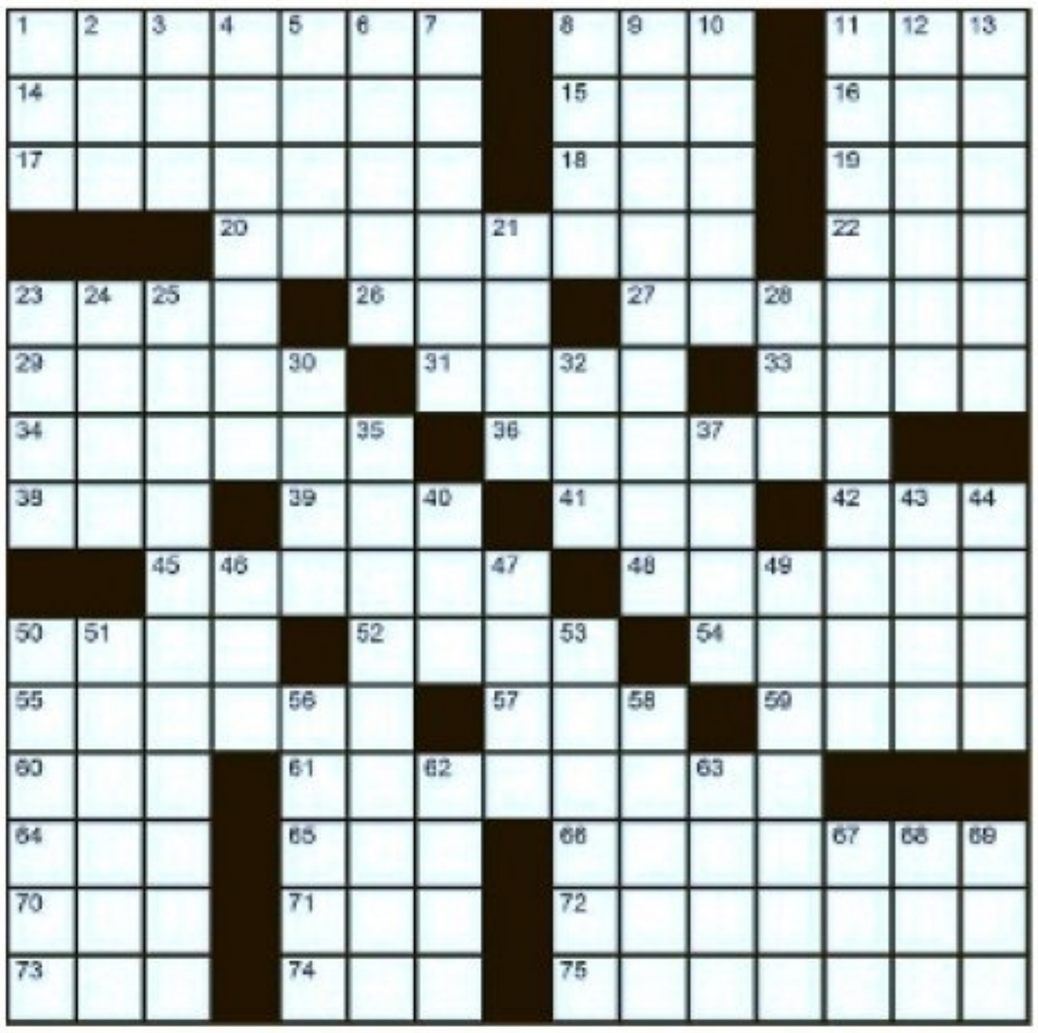
2. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt. Simmer for 15 minutes.

3. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Unwavering
8. Butterfly logo co.
11. Dripping on the tree bark
14. Tributes
15. Stock mkt. debut
16. _-la-la
17. Fashionable
18. Women's _ (1970s movement)
19. Bard's evening
20. Direct opposite as per North, to South
22. "Jeff _." (Mid-2000s Canadian comedy series)
23. Wee word
26. _ Lanka
27. Canadian actress Ms. Cuthbert
29. McIntosh middles
31. Pressure unit
33. Some parrots
34. New cop
36. "Easy there...": 2 wds.
38. Tolkien creature
39. Alkali
41. Business bigwig, briefly
42. Howdies
45. British actress, _ Bonham Carter
48. Weightlifter's pride
50. Howard of "Dallas"
52. Fair
54. Aired again
55. Improve
57. Li'l old MTV show
59. Mr. Beatty's
60. Do this at the auction
61. Canadian canned soup brand
64. Give it _ _ (Try)
65. "...and now, without further _..."
66. "_ Flame" by The Bangles
70. Snazzy auto
71. Hollywood's Mr. Howard
72. "The Beachcombers" star Bruno
73. _ Francisco
74. Lettered airline, once
75. British Invasion band

DOWN
1. Initials-sharers of Suzanne Somers' Canuck hubby
2. On the _ (Precisely)
3. Ms. Schumer
4. Victor _, Investigative Reporter on CTV's "W5"
5. Opposin'
6. Aeries
7. Casual top with jeans
8. Simon's co-member in Prozzak
9. Bug-built bugs capturer: 2 wds.
10. The _ Peace Prize
11. Howie Mandel played Dr. Wayne Fiscus on what 1982 to 1988 medical drama?: 2 wds.
12. "Think" singer Ms. Franklin
13. 'Giant' attractions at the Toronto Zoo
21. Subatomic particle
23. Land unit
24. Benefit
25. Sam Roberts song that goes "Been looking for peace but they're bringing you war.": 2 wds.
28. 1965 hit song, when doubled
30. Part of a window
32. Mythical bird
35. Makeup kit item
37. Pinot _ (Wine variety)
40. Antacid brand
43. Apple tablet
44. Taxpayers' IDs in The States
46. Mr. Wallach
47. Sparkling wine city of Italy
49. Big name in multivitamins
50. BBQ sizzlers, Shish _ [var. sp.]
51. 2001 Kate Winslet WWII-set movie
53. Canadian songstress Lindi
56. _-topper (Hit song)
58. Approach nighttime
62. _ fide
63. Italian saint, Philip _
67. Edward Snowden headlines org.
68. Communication syst.
69. '_' _ for Lethbridge

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your birth sign at the weekend, so don't worry if you are feeling a bit under the weather at the moment because you will soon be back to your best.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you feel the need to cut yourself off from those around you over the next few days then do so. It may seem rude but good manners are less important now than getting your head in the right place.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your recent hard work has not gone unnoticed. People are impressed by your attitude and there could be a promotion coming your way in the near future.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The Sun crosses the career angle of your chart on Sunday, so it won't be long before you get the chance to move up in the world. But don't be tempted to cut corners.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You may think you need to rip everything up and start again from scratch. But it isn't true and in fact would be a backward step. The good times will start in a matter of days, so be patient.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have spent far too much in recent weeks and if you carry on there may be nothing left. The good news is you will discover a new source of income very soon.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
By the time the Sun enters your opposite sign of Aries on Sunday you should know for certain if a relationship is going to last or if it is best to go your separate ways.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun's move into the work area of your chart in just a few days means you may need to take on new chores and responsibilities. But know when to say "no" — and mean it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Certain events may have upset you but there is no point dwelling on them. In a matter of days they will no longer matter. The Sun's change of signs on the 20th will cheer you up to no end.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more you have been rushing here, there and everywhere in recent weeks, the more you must slow down and focus on matters closer to home. Give your full attention to partners and loved ones.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The past few weeks have not been easy but you stuck at your task and very soon you will get your reward. The pendulum is about to swing in your favour.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
By all means show sympathy for someone who is finding the going tough at the moment, and do what you can to help them.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	2				8		5	
5								6
	7		9				1	
6				1		9		
		4		3				8
	3				9		7	
8								4
	6		5				2	

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Erin Mills Town Centre
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Sheridan Centre
SmartCentres Westgate
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NEWMARKET
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NORTH YORK
Bayview Village
Centerpoint Mall
Fairview Mall
Lawrence Square
North York Sheridan Mall
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OAKVILLE
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114 Broadway Ave

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